

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A cosmetic composition, comprising:

surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and

an anti-perspiring component,

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group, and

wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 50 μm .

Claims 5-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the amount of water absorbed into the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claims 12-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 4, wherein the amount of water absorbed into the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 11, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method of controlling perspiration, comprising:
applying a composition comprising surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and an anti-perspiring component onto the skin,

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group, and

wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The ~~cosmetic composition~~ method of claim 23, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

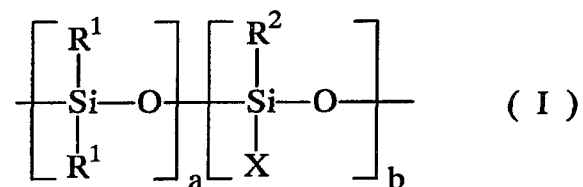
Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked copolymer comprising polymerized hydrophilic vinyl monomers.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked poly(meth)acrylate.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound has at least one of an amino and an ammonium group.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, further comprising a carrier.

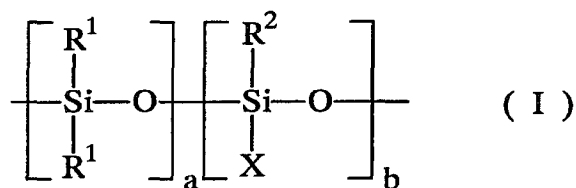
Claim 30 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone is an amino-modified silicone represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group, and a plurality of R¹s may be the same or different; R² represents R¹ or X where X is a reactive functional group represented by -R³-Z wherein R³ represents a direct bond or a C₁₋₂₀ divalent hydrocarbon group and Z represents a primary to tertiary amino group-containing group or a quaternary ammonium group-containing group; a is a number of 2 or more; and b is a number of 1 or more.

Claim 31 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 30, wherein the R¹ groups are independently a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group, R³ is a C₁₋₆ linear or branched alkylene group, a is a number from 2 to 1000 and b is from 1 to 50.

Claim 32 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 23, wherein the silicone is an amino-modified silicone represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group, and a plurality of R¹s may be the same or different; R² represents R¹ or X where X is a reactive functional group represented by -R³-Z wherein R³ represents a direct bond or a C₁₋₂₀ divalent hydrocarbon group and Z represents a primary to tertiary amino group-containing group or a quaternary ammonium group-containing group; a is a number of 2 or more; and b is a number of 1 or more.

Claim 33 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 32, wherein the R¹ groups are independently a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group, R³ is a C₁₋₆ linear or branched alkylene group, a is a number from 2 to 1000 and b is from 1 to 50.

Claim 34 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group is a silicone compound having at least 2 silicon atoms.